MARVEL® COMICS

SPIDER-MAN®

DEC '96 16

ONLY 99¢

WHO'S THAT GIRL?

UNTOLD TALES of SPIDER-MAN®

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

OLIVIFFE - PEREZ

Bitten by a radioactive spider, high school student **Peter Parker** gained the spider's powers, and soon became the costumed crimefighter the entire world would one day come to know as **Spider-Man!** In the early days of his career, when his amazing powers were still new to him, the teenaged Spider-Man struggled to learn about himself and his abilities, while trying to lead a **normal life!** It would **not** be easy...

STAN LEE PRESENTS... UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN!

THE BOY NEXT DOOR

WHEN I SAW HIM ON TV, I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST A GINCHY, GLAMOROUS GOOFBALL.

A SWINGIN' CELEB WITHOUT A **CARE** IN THE WORLD -- LAUGHING HIS WAY THROUGH LIFE, LIKE **ME**.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHO WAS UNDER THAT **MADCAP MASK** -- AND I DIDN'T MUCH **CARE**.

BUT THAT WAS BEFORE I SAW HIM FOR **REAL**. BEFORE I FOUND OUT -- THE **TRUTH**.

AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT FROM AN UNDENIABLE EYEFUL! BY:

KURT BUSIEK WRITER

PAT OLLIFFE PENCILS

DICK GIORDANO INKS

RICHARD STARKINGS AND COMICRAFT LETTERING

STEVE MATTSSON COLORS

TOM BREVOORT EDITOR

BOB HARRAS EDITOR IN CHIEF

© 2017 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. WWW.MARVEL.COM

IT WAS THAT AWFUL NIGHT I WAS VISITING **AUNT ANNA** -- AND THE MAN NEXT DOOR GOT **MURDERED**. I SAW A COP TELL HIS **NEPHEW** WHAT HAPPENED --

-- AND I SAW THE KID **RUN INTO THE HOUSE**, AND THEN **COME OUT** --

-- OUT THE **WINDOW!**

SPIDER-MAN...PETER PARKER IS SPIDER-MAN.

Oh, WOW.

AND NOW--
AND NOW--

A **BLIND DATE**? AUNT ANNA, I HAVE HALF THE GUYS IN SCHOOL BACK HOME DROOLING ON MY **SHOES**!

THE **LAST** THING I NEED IS A NIGHT OUT WITH SOME **GEEK** WHO CAN'T GET A DATE ON HIS OWN!

YEAH, SO WAS MY DAD. **SAVE** ME FROM SENSITIVE BOYS.

MARY JANE, YOU **CAN'T** COMPARE PETER PARKER WITH YOUR FATHER. PETER IS SO **RESPONSIBLE**.

HEY, JUST **KIDDING**. LOOK, I'M MEETING SOME KIDS AT THE **MALL**. WE'LL TALK LATER, OKAY?

I'D HARDLY CALL PETER PARKER A "**GEEK**," MARY JANE. HE'S A QUIET, **SENSITIVE** BOY.

MARY JANE -- DON'T GO! IF YOU'RE **UPSET** --!

Oh, DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT **ME**, AUNT ANNA --

-- NOTHING GETS TO LITTLE ***MARY JANE*** -- NOT FOR ***LONG!***

NO, WHEN YOU GROW UP LIKE I DID --

THE CHILDREN, THE ***CHILDREN*** -- THAT'S ALL I EVER ***HEAR*** FROM YOU! HOW CAN I WRITE WHEN I'M LIVING IN A ***LUNATIC ASYLUM?***

-- YOU LEARN NOT TO TAKE ANYTHING TOO HARD.

YOU HAVE YOUR FUN WHERE YOU CAN FIND IT --

WHAT'S THE ***MATTER,*** SISTER MINE -- MADE A FACE AND IT ***FROZE*** THAT WAY?

YOU WOULDN'T ***KNOW,*** M.J. --

-- YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING BUT ***YOURSELF,*** DO YOU?

-- AND YOU LEARN NOT TO LET YOURSELF GET TIED DOWN --

-- BABY'S DUE IN JULY!

OF COURSE, TIMMY'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP ***COLLEGE*** -- HE'S GOTTEN A ***JOB*** --

-- NOT WHILE THERE'S THE LEAST LITTLE BIT OF FUN TO BE FOUND IN THIS BIG, BLUE-EYED, BEAUTIFUL WORLD.

LOOK AT HIM ***GO!***

AND ABOVE ALL -- ABOVE ALL -- IF THERE'S ANYTHING THAT SCARES YOU, ANYTHING THAT WORRIES YOU --

-- YOU JUST LAUGH IT AWAY.

LOOK OUT, SHOE-STORE CLERKS OF AMERICA! MARY JANE WATSON IS ON THE ***PROWL --***

-- AND SHE'S NOT TAKING ANY ***PRISONERS!***

BUT SOME THINGS CAN'T BE LAUGHED OFF THAT **EASILY.**

LIKE WHEN YOU SEE THE **BOY NEXT DOOR,** AND WHAT YOU SEE IS A **STUDIOUS, STRAIGHT-ARROW, KINDA SQUARE CLYDE --**

--AND YOU KNOW IT'S NOT TRUE.

MISS ***WATSON!*** WHEN I ASKED THE GROUP TO PREPARE A DRAMATIC ***POETRY READING*** FOR THE SEMINAR TODAY --

--"ITSY-BITSY-SPIDER" WAS ***NOT*** WHAT I HAD IN MIND!

Oh, BUT YOU GOTTA LOVE THE ***CLASSICS,*** Mrs. DORSEY! AND BESIDES --

-- THINK OF THE ***DRAMA!*** THE ***PASSION!*** THE HIDDEN ***SYMBOLISM!***

OR WHEN YOU SEE A *SOULFUL SUPER HERO* BOUNCIN' FROM BUILDING TO BUILDING, AND WHAT YOU SEE IS A *CRAZY, CAREFREE CLOWN* --

-- AND YOU KNOW *THAT'S* NOT TRUE, EITHER!

KNOW WHAT THE ***ZEN PRIEST*** SAID TO THE ***HOT DOG VENDOR,*** MAX?

YEAH, YEAH -- MAKE ME ***ONE*** WITH ***EVERY-THING.***

Ahh, ***NIRVANA*** ON A BUN!

WHO ARE YOU REALLY, PETER PARKER? WHEN YOU'RE NOT THE DUTIFUL NEPHEW -- AND YOU'RE NOT SOCKIN' IT TO THE SCOFFLAW SET --

-- WHAT DO YOU DO?

MIDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

WHAT, FLASH --

-- WHAT'D I SAY, Huh?

ALL I DID WAS SUGGEST THAT IF WE'RE GONNA THROW THE OLD PIGSKIN AROUND, WE OUGHTTA ROPE IN *JASON* --

-- AN' EVERYBODY WENT ALL *WEIRD!*

WELL, TINY, YOU WEREN'T *HERE* WHEN --

-- I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S NOT *WELCOME* OR ANYTHING, BUT --

-- IT'S JUST --

IT'S *ALL RIGHT,* FLASH, I'M GOING. DON'T WORRY -- YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR JASON THE *LEPER.*

JASON THE *FREAK!*

JASON THE *MURDERER!*

GEEZ! IT'S NO *WONDER* NO ONE WANTS TO HANG AROUND WITH HIM ANY MORE!

C'MON, TINY.

Y'KNOW, PETER, THINGS HAVE BEEN REALLY ***TENSE*** AROUND HERE, EVER SINCE ***SALLY*** DIED.

IT'S LIKE --

-- IT'S LIKE IT'S HANGING OVER THE ***WHOLE SCHOOL***, PUTTING EVERYBODY ON EDGE -- ***ESPECIALLY*** AROUND JASON.

WELL, HE WAS DRIVING THE ***CAR*** WHEN SHE GOT KILLED -- HE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A LICENSE, AND HE DROVE OUT IN FRONT OF A ***BUS***...

YEAH, BUT YOU KNOW SHE MUST'VE BEEN PUSHING HIM TO ***DO*** IT -- HE DIDN'T DO ***ANYTHING*** WITHOUT HER TELLING HIM TO. AND BESIDES --

-- HE'S BEATING ***HIMSELF*** UP OVER IT SO MUCH ALREADY -- DOES HE REALLY NEED TO BE DUMPED ON BY ***EVERYONE ELSE***, TOO?

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE COULD ***DO*** ABOUT IT. ANY ***IDEAS?***

Huh? WHY ASK ME, LIZ? I'M ONLY --

-- YOU'RE ONLY THE ***SMARTEST*** BOY IN ***SCHOOL***, AND THE ONLY ONE FLASH CAN'T ***PUSH AROUND***, THAT'S WHO YOU ARE.

Hah! FLASH COULD SNAP ME IN TWO, AND YOU ***KNOW IT!***

MAYBE, MAYBE NOT.

BUT ONE THING I ***DO*** KNOW IS THAT YOU'RE NOT ***SCARED*** OF HIM. I CAN TELL THAT JUST BY ***WATCHING*** THE TWO OF YOU.

SO -- WILL YOU ***TRY*** TO THINK OF SOMETHING?

SURE, LIZ --

-- AND Y'KNOW, I MIGHT JUST HAVE AN IDEA...

"THIS IS THE PALPITATIN' PITS, AUNT ANNA --"

-- I MEAN, I KNOW IT'S THE WHOLE ***HISTORY MUSEUM BIT***, BUT COULDN'T THEY MAKE IT A LITTLE MORE ***LIVELY?***

LIKE MAYBE A DANCE FLOOR -- A PREHISTORIC POLKA! A BRONTO-BOOGALOO!

ANYTHING TO BRING IN A ***BATCH O' BOYS!***

MARY JANE, YOU'RE SO IRREPRESSIBLE!

BUT YOU CAN'T NEGLECT YOUR ***STUDIES***. EVEN IF YOU DO BECOME AN ***ACTRESS***, YOU'LL STILL WANT TO KNOW SOMETHING OF HISTORY, OF SCIENCE...

I'M ***HIP***, DEAR HEART! IF I'M SCREAMIN' MY LITTLE LUNGS OUT IN SOME ***BLUE-SCREEN EXTRAVAGANZA***, IT'LL HELP TO KNOW WHAT I'M SCREAMIN' ***AT!***

PETER PARKER IS INTERESTED IN SCIENCE, MAY TELLS ME -- HAVE YOU THOUGHT ANYTHING MORE ABOUT THAT ***DATE?***

Oh, ***PLEASE!*** AFTER AN HOUR IN THIS MAUSOLEUM, I'M ***NUTTY*** WITH KNOWLEDGE! I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT ***ANYTHING*** RIGHT NOW --

--I JUST WANT SOMETHING TO ***HAPPEN!***

WHKOOM

WH- ***WHAT*** --?!

Ah -- ANY CHANCE I COULD REPHRASE THAT --?

IT'S THE GUY I'VE BEEN DOING MY ALL-OUT BEST NOT TO **THINK** ABOUT -- **SPIDER-MAN!** AND NOT ONLY HIM --

-- BUT THE **RADIOACTIVE MAN**, TOO!

AM I GONNA HAVE TO FIGHT ALL OF YOU MASTERS OF EVIL ONE BY **ONE**, R.M.?

SLAMM

I MIXED IT UP WITH YOUR BUDDY THE **BLACK KNIGHT**, BEFORE THE AVENGERS PUT THE **KIBOSH** ON YOU GUYS --

-- SO NOW IT'S **YOUR** TURN?

HE'S A **CHINESE SCIENTIST** -- WHO BOMBARDED HIMSELF WITH RADIATION TO FIGHT **THOR**, AND JUST RECENTLY, THE **AVENGERS!**

THE RADIO MENTIONED HOW HE FAKED ILLNESS TO GET AT THE **RADIOACTIVE MEDICINES** IN THE PRISON INFIRMARY, AND JUICE UP HIS **POWERS!**

MARY JANE -- THIS **WAY!**

AND NOW HE'S **LOOSE!** BUT HE'S SO BIG -- SO STRONG --

WHK

UHH!

-- HOW CAN SPIDER-MAN **HOPE** TO STAND AGAINST HIM?

BARON ZEMO **LIED** TO US, SPIDER-MAN!

HE BROUGHT ME BACK FROM CHINA -- BROUGHT IN THE KNIGHT, THE MELTER --

-- HE SAID HE'D LEAD US TO **VICTORY**, BUT HE LEFT US TO ROT IN **JAIL!**

WHOA! ***EEEASY*** THERE, Mr. CLEAN!

BUT ZEMO SHOULD HAVE **KNOWN** -- JUST AS **YOU** SHOULD HAVE --

-- THAT THE ***RADIOACTIVE MAN*** IS ***NEVER*** HELPLESS!

Oh, ***YEAH?***

THWIPP

NOT EVEN WHEN YOU'RE WRAPPED IN A COCOON OF ***WEBBING?***

DO NOT PLAY THE ***FOOL,*** SPIDER-MAN!

MY BODY IS A LIVING ***BREEDER REACTOR*** -- A SOURCE OF ***INCALCULABLE ENERGY!*** AND I CAN ***CHANNEL*** THAT ENERGY --

-- RELEASING IT AS ***FORCE*** -- OR AS ***SEARING, BLISTERING HEAT!***

GOTCHA, GREENIE! SO MUCH FOR THE ***WEBBING,*** THEN!

MARY JANE, ***PLEASE!*** WE'VE GOT TO RUN -- ***NOW!***

EXIT

FIFTH TIME MAN

HE'S JUST A KID! A TEENAGER -- NO MORE THAN A YEAR OLDER THAN ME!

HOW CAN HE BE SO COOL UNDER FIRE? HOW CAN HE CRACK JOKES LIKE THAT?!

AND ***NOW,*** SPIDER-MAN --

NO, WAIT, R.M. -- LET ME ***GUESS!***

YOU CAN CHANNEL YOUR RADIOACTIVITY INTO ***STRENGTH,*** TOO!

BUT THROWING ***BIG HEAVY THINGS*** --

-- THAT WORKS ON US ***SPIDER-MEN*** ABOUT AS WELL AS WEBBING WORKED ON ***YOU!***

KRAASH!

Oh, NO! THE EXIT -- IT'S BLOCKED!

AND THE ONLY OTHER WAY OUT -- IS PAST THEM!

VERY WELL. PERHAPS YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR DEMEANOR -- ONCE I TAKE SOME HOSTAGES!

AAH!

AND YOU DARE NOT INTERFERE -- NOT WITH MY SKIN TOO SCORCHINGLY HOT FOR YOU TO TOUCH ME!

Oh, I'LL INTERFERE ALL RIGHT.

I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO TOUCH YOU, GLOW-GUY --

-- BUT I CAN INTERFERE PLENTY!

WHAKK

UHH!

Uh-Oh!

Uh-Oh!

WHUFFOR HE SAID "UH-OH"?

KESSH

IN ORE SAMPLES

THOSE RADIOACTIVE ***ORE SAMPLES!*** THEY WERE ***SAFE*** IN THEIR LEAD-GLASS CASE --

-- BUT IF THEY COME IN ***CONTACT*** WITH HIM -- IF THEY INCREASE HIS ***OWN*** RADIOACTIVITY --!

NOW YOU'VE ***DONE*** IT, SPIDER-MAN!

ALL I WANTED WAS TO REACH THE ***WATERFRONT*** -- AND COMMANDEER A SHIP ***AWAY*** FROM THIS MISERABLE COUNTRY! BUT YOU --

-- YOU'VE DOOMED US ***ALL!***

ORDINARILY, I'M ABLE TO KEEP HARD RADIATION LOCKED ***WITHIN*** ME -- RELEASING ONLY ***LIGHT*** AND ***FORCE!*** BUT NOW --

-- YOU'VE SET OFF A ***CHAIN REACTION*** WITHIN ME -- A BUILDING CATACLYSM THAT WON'T ***STOP*** --

-- NOT UNTIL I REACH ***SUPER-CRITICAL MASS*** AND ***EXPLODE!***

NEW YORK AND EVERYONE IN IT ARE ***DOOMED,*** SPIDER-MAN --

-- AND IT'S

YOUR FAULT!

SHRAMM

AND MY ONLY ***SOLACE*** --

-- IS THAT YOU CAN'T RUN ***FAR*** ENOUGH OR ***FAST*** ENOUGH --

-- TO ESCAPE DEATH ***YOURSELF!***

WOW! LOOKS LIKE HE'S BLASTED CLEAR THROUGH THE BUILDING -- ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE SUBWAY TUNNELS!

HE COULD GET ANYWHERE IN THE CITY FROM THERE!

YOU'RE NOT -- GOING AFTER HIM, ARE YOU?

GOT TO, PRETTY GIRL! IF THERE'S ANY WAY TO STOP HIM FROM EXPLODING -- ANY WAY AT ALL --

-- IT'S UP TO ME TO FIND IT!

-- AND THEN OL' SPIDEY ARROWED DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE LIKE AN AWESOME OLYMPIC DIVER --

-- AND THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE, FOLKS! END OF ACT 1!

END OF ACT 1? BUT MARY JANE, THAT HORRIBLE GLOWING MAN -- HE SAID WE WERE ALL GOING TO DIE!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, AUNT ANNA/SPIDEY'LL GET THAT RADIOACTIVE RAT -- YOU'LL SEE!

D NOT CROSS - PO

I BELIEVE THAT.

I REALLY BELIEVE THAT.

I TRUST SPIDER-MAN TO TAKE CARE OF US ALL.

BUT WHY? I KNOW WHO'S UNDER THAT MASK. I KNOW HE'S JUST A KID.

SHOULDN'T THAT MAKE ME LESS CONFIDENT -- NOT MORE SO?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

I'M NOT ANY CLEARER A FEW HOURS LATER...

WHY THE *LONG FACE,* AUNT O' MINE? THE COPS SAID THE RADIO-ACTIVE GUY MUST'VE BEEN *BLUFFING* -- JUST TRYING TO CAUSE A *PERNICIOUS PANIC.*

C'MON -- YOU DON'T *REALLY* THINK WE'RE ALL *DOOMED,* DO YOU?

I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* TO THINK. THE ABBOTTS -- *THEY* LEFT TOWN, AND THE RADIO SAYS THERE ARE *TRAFFIC JAMS* OF PEOPLE LEAVING THE CITY!

Oh, IF *ONLY* SOMEONE COULD CONTACT THE *FANTASTIC FOUR* OR THE *AVENGERS!*

WELL, I WOULDN'T *WORRY* ABOUT IT, DOLL. PUT ON A *HAPPY FACE,* THAT'S MY MOTTO!

MARY JANE -- WHERE --?

GOTTA GET SOME *FRESH AIR.* THERE'S A PARTY GOING ON *SOME-WHERE* -- AND LITTLE MJ'S GONNA *FIND* IT!

BUT MY MOOD DOESN'T LAST PAST THE FRONT DOOR.

HEY, GORGEOUS! HOW ABOUT AN EGG CREAM AT *GROUND ZERO?*

CATCH ME *NEXT* END OF THE WORLD, DAD. I'M -- I'M NOT *THIRSTY* --!

MOST OF THE CITY DIDN'T BELIEVE THERE WAS A THREAT, THE NEWS SAID. ONLY A FEW THOUSAND RAN.

BUT I SAW THE RADIO-ACTIVE MAN'S FACE -- HE WAS SERIOUS. DEAD SERIOUS.

IT'S ALL UP TO --

-- SPIDER-MAN, CAPTURED ON VIDEO BY OUR NEWS COPTERS!

APPARENTLY, SPIDER-MAN TRACKED DOWN THE RADIOACTIVE MAN USING SOME SORT OF GEIGER COUNTER-LIKE DEVICE --

-- AND IS EVEN NOW BATTLING HIM ON THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE!

THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE? THAT'S NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE.

TAXI! TAXI!

HOLD *STILL*, JOLLY GREEN GIANT, 'CAUSE DOC SPIDEY'S GOT *JUST* THE THING FOR YOUR LITTLE SKIN PROBLEM --

LEAD-LACED WEBBING!

THWIPP

THWIPP

GO *AHEAD*, SPIDER-MAN --

-- FOR ALL THE *GOOD* IT WILL DO YOU!

YOU *SEE*? MY RADIATION IS NOW SUCH THAT YOUR *PATHETIC WEBBING* CANNOT HOLD IT IN CHECK!

LEAD-LACED OR NOT -- IT MELTS AWAY AS SOON AS IT TOUCHES ME!

HEY, NO FAIR! I SPENT ALL AFTERNOON WHIPPING UP THAT STUFF! BESIDES --

-- WHEN A SUPER HERO PULLS SOME KINDA *WACKY STUNT* LIKE THAT, IT'S SUPPOSED TO *WORK!* I'M SURE IT'S IN THE RULE BOOK *SOMEWHERE!*

THE CAB DRIVER GOT ME AS CLOSE AS HE COULD -- BUT HE WASN'T WILLING TO GET NEARER THAN A FEW BLOCKS FROM THE BRIDGE!

NOT THAT I CAN BLAME HIM.

BUT I'VE GOT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

I'VE GOT TO!

COME ON, RADIOACTIVE GUY! SURRENDER!

LET ME TRY TO HELP YOU -- TO STOP THE CHAIN REACTION!

IT'S TOO LATE!

DON'T YOU THINK I WOULD STOP IT IF I COULD?!

BUT I WAS A FOOL BEFORE, TO RUN FROM YOU IN MY FEAR AND PANIC! THE CITY WILL DIE, AND I ALONG WITH IT --

-- BUT AT LEAST I'LL HAVE THE SATISFACTION --

-- OF KILLING THE ONE WHO DID THIS TO ME!

WHOA! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE THROWIN' THOSE LATE-MODEL SEDANS, FELLA --

-- I MEAN, YOU ALMOST HIT THAT INNOCENT COAL BARGE!

COAL BARGE? HEY -- THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!

LOOK AT HIM! HE WON'T QUIT, NOT EVEN WHEN THINGS LOOK HOPELESS! HE WON'T QUIT!

WHO ARE YOU, PETER PARKER!

FOOL! I CAN FEEL THE NEUTRONS *INSIDE* ME -- FLYING OUTWARD, AND ROCKETING IN AGAIN --

-- SMASHING MY ATOMS APART AS THEY REACH THEIR ***DEADLY CRESCENDO!*** I'LL EXPLODE IN *SECONDS*, SPIDER-MAN--

--AND THERE'S ***NO WAY*** YOU CAN ***ESCAPE YOUR FATE!***

MAYBE NOT, MAYBE NOT --

-- BUT I'M SURE YOU WON'T MIND IF I GIVE IT THAT ***OLD COLLEGE TRY***, RIGHT?

WH-WHAT?

TWONGG

Eh --?

THE COAL BARGE --?

THAT'S RIGHT, R.M. -- A COAL BARGE.

AND NOW --

CHOOM

-- EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON THE NEXT FEW SECONDS!

COAL IS ALMOST PURE CARBON -- IT'LL ABSORB THE LOOSE NEUTRONS, DAMPING THE ATOMIC ACTIVITY --

--AND SHUTTING THE CHAIN REACTION DOWN --

-- UNLESS --

-- UNLESS --

DID IT!

HE WASN'T TOO FAR GONE -- THE COAL WAS ENOUGH TO STOP HIM! Oh, MAN -- I DID IT! I DID IT!

HE DID IT. AND I -- I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FEEL.

HE'S SCIENCE-GEEK PETER PARKER.

HE'S A LAUGHING, JOKING ADVENTURER.

HE'S THE BOY NEXT DOOR.

HE'S A HERO WHO SAVED THE CITY.

I JUST -- I JUST DON'T KNOW...

BY THE TIME THE CAVORTIN' COAST GUARD SHOWS UP, THE RADIOACTIVE MAN'S GONE.

HE SLIPPED OVER THE SIDE -- HIDDEN IN THE SMOKE FROM THE COAL FIRE. AND ALREADY, THE MERRY MEDIA'S WEIGHING IN.

THE SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT TELLS US WHAT HAPPENED. J. JONAH JAMESON TELLS US IT'S ALL SPIDER-MAN'S FAULT. AND ME --

THIS IS DUMB, LIZ. I SHOULDN'T HAVE AGREED TO COME.

WHAT'RE WE DOIN' AT PUNY PARKER'S, ANYWAY?

RELAX, GUYS --

-- I'M JUST WONDERING WHAT'S SHAKIN' OVER AT THE PARKERS'.

-- AND FOLLOW ME!

NOK NOK

OKAY, BUT IF THIS IS SOME SORT OF TRICK --!

SURPRISE!

Welcome Back Tiny and Jason!

SURPRISE!

Huh?

SURPRISE, GUYS!

C'MON IN, GUYS -- EVERYBODY'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

"WELCOME BACK, TINY... AND JASON"?!

YEP! SINCE BOTH YOU AND TINY WERE OUT OF SCHOOL FOR A WHILE, LIZ THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO WELCOME YOU BOTH BACK --

-- AND MY HOUSE WAS THE ONLY PLACE THAT'D BE A COMPLETE SURPRISE!

YEAH -- GREAT IDEA OF MINE, Huh?

YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T GIVE ME ALL THE CREDIT, PETER...

AW, IT DOESN'T MATTER, LIZ!

NOK NOK

THIS IS GREAT! THANKS, GUYS!

A- A PARTY FOR ME?!

Ah, IT'S BETTY BRANT! I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT.

YOU DON'T KNOW MOST OF PETER'S SCHOOL FRIENDS, BUT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIX THAT TONIGHT.

THANKS, Mrs. PARKER.

I'VE GOT TO ADMIT, I'VE REALLY BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO --

-- H-HUH?!

YOU'RE THE BEST, PETER PARKER!

BETTY?!

BETTY, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK -- IT'S PERFECTLY INNOCENT!

BETTY, WAIT -- I CAN EXPLAIN --!

NO EXPLANATION NEEDED, Mr. PARKER -- MY EYES WORK JUST FINE!

BUT BETTY --

I CAN SEE I'M NOT NEEDED -- OR WANTED -- HERE, Mr. PARKER! GOOD NIGHT -- AND HAVE A LOVELY PARTY!

OF ALL THE CRUMMY --

PETER PARKER! *JUST* THE MAN I WANTED TO SEE!

Huh? *FLASH?*

YOU MAY THINK THIS'LL GET YOU IN GOOD WITH THE *KIDS*, PARKER -- BUT YOU'RE NOT FOOLING *ME* FOR A SECOND!

YOU WANT TO STAY HEALTHY, STAY *AWAY* FROM LIZ ALLEN! SHE'S *MY* GIRL!

BUT FLASH, I...

WHAT HE *SAID*, PARKER -- AND THAT GOES *DOUBLE* FOR ME!

JASON?

YOU'RE NOT *ONE* OF US, PARKER, AND YOU NEVER *WILL* BE!

PUT *THAT* IN YOUR PIPE AND SMOKE IT!

AW, *NUTS!*

I GUESS EVERYTHING'S BACK TO *NORMAL*, NOW -- OR AS NORMAL AS IT CAN BE, WITH *SALLY* GONE.

TINY'S BACK IN *SCHOOL*, JASON'S ONE OF THE *CROWD* AGAIN... AND EVERYBODY'S MAD AT *ME!*

STILL, MAYBE THIS'LL GIVE US THE CHANCE WE NEED.. TO RECOVER, TO *HEAL*. AND, AT LEAST, EVERYTHING THAT COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN *HAS*..

...*HASN'T* IT?

I'M... NOT READY TO DATE YOU, PETER PARKER. IF AUNT ANNA PUSHES ME ABOUT IT, I'LL COME DOWN WITH A "HEADACHE" OR SOMETHING.

BUT THIS RIOTOUS REDHEAD DOESN'T RUN AWAY FROM ANYTHING FOREVER -- AND SOMEDAY, MR. PARKER, *SOMEDAY* --

-- I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHO YOU REALLY *ARE* -- UNDER *ALL* OF YOUR MASK!

NEXT: SPIDEY BATTLES HAWKEYE the MARKSMAN!

BE THERE!